

Message Text

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ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 NSC-10 SPC-03 SAM-01 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 L-03 MC-02 AID-20 IGA-02 DRC-01

/091 W

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R 010740Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7825

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

S E C R E T ADDIS ABABA 2286

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, ET

SUBJ: DIVERSION OF MAP SUPPORT

1. FOLLOWING ARE THE VERBATIM QUOTES OF THREE SELF-EXPLANATORY LETTERS CONCERNING A PROBABLE DIVERSION OF MAP SUPPORT IN ETHIOPIA:

(A) LETTER, CMAAG TO KT.GEN. KEBEDE, MOD, DATED FEB. 13, 1974: QTE IT HAS COME TO MY ATTENTION THAT, ON 11 FEB 74 APPROX 2000 EACH M-1 RIFLES WERE TRANSFERRED FROM THE IEGF TO THE POLICE. IN THE ABSENCE OF EVIDENCE TO THE CONTRARY, IT MUST BE PRESUMED THAT THESE WEAPONS WERE OF MAP ORIGIN. SINCE THE PROVISION OF MAP ITEMS TO HOST COUNTRY POLICE FORCES IS QUITE SPECIFICALLY PROHIBITED BY UNITED STATES LAW, THIS IS A SERIOUS MATTER WHICH CALLS FOR THE IMMEDIATE ATTENTION OF ALL CONCERNED. THEREFORE, I RESPECTFULLY REQUEST THAT YOU WITHER:

(A) SUBMIT CLEAR EVIDENCE THAT THESE WEAPONS WERE NOT OF MAP ORIGIN, OR

(B) RETURN THESE WEAPONS TO IEGF CONTROL IN A MANNER COORDINATED WITH COLONEL EUGENE N. FISK, CHIEF, ARMY SECTION, USMAAG ETHIOPIA, WHICH WILL PROVIDE ASSURANCE TO ME THAT THE RETURN HAS BEEN COMPLETELY EFFECTED. IF THIS MATTER IS NOT RESOLVED BY THE BEGINNING OF NEXT WEEK, I

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WILL HAVE NO RECOURSE BUT TO REPORT IT TO THE PROPER AUTHOR-

ITIES IN WASHINGTON. UNQTE.

(B) LETTER, H.E. LT.GEN. KEBEDE, MOD, TO CHMAAG, DATED 23FEB74: QTE THIS IS IN REFERENCE TO YOUR LETTER OF 13 FEB 74, REGARDING M-1 RIFLES. I WOULD LIKE TO BRING TO YOUR ATTENTION THAT ON JULY 7, 1969, I IN PERSON PRESENTED TO THE FORMER US SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, MR. MELVIN LAIRD, IN WASHINGTON, D.C., A MEMORANDUM CONSISTING OF CONSOLIDATED IEG DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS.

IN THIS MEMORANDUM 10,000 M-1 RIFLES WERE REQUESTED FOR COUNTER-INSURGENCY OPERATIONS; AND THESE RIFLES WERE TO BE CONSIDERED APART FROM THE REGULAR MAP GRANT AND TO BE USED SOLELY FOR COUNTERINSURGENCY OPERATIONS. THIS WAS CLEARLY INDICATED IN THE MEMORANDUM. ACCORDINGLY, OUT OF THE 10,000 RIFLES A TOTAL OF 2,000 RIFLES WERE GRANTED AS EXPLAINED IN THE FOLLOWING LETTERS OF THE TWO FORMER CHIEFS OF USMAAG TO ETHIOPIA:

(1) BRIG. GENERAL G.W. MCCAFFREY'S LETTER OF 19 AUG. 70 DEPICTS THAT 1,000 M-1 RIFLES WERE DELIVERED FOR THE TERRITORIAL ARMY, AND THAT 1,000 M-1 CARBINES WERE EAR-MARKED FOR THE SAME PURPOSE.

(2) BRIG. GENERAL JOHN W. COLLINS, III, LETTER OF 11 MAY 71 CONFIRMS THE ARRIVAL OF THE 1,000 CARBINES AT THE PORT OF ASSAB AND THE PROCESSING OF TRANSPORTATION TO ADDIS ABABA. AS IT IS EXPLAINED ABOVE, THE US GOVERNMENT AUTHORIZED AND DELIVERED THESE WEAPONS FOR COUNTERINSURGENCY OPERATIONS. SINCE THE INSURGENTS ARE EQUIPPED WITH BETTER AND MORE MODERN WEAPONS, WE HAVE CHANGED THE CARBINES WITH M-1 RIFLES AND HAVE GIVEN THEM TO THE EMERGENCY FORCES DIRECTLY COMMITTED TO THE COUNTERINSURGENCY OPERATIONS. THIS STEP HAS BEEN TAKEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONSULTATIONS WE MADE WITH THE ABOVE MENTIONED FORMER CHIEFS OF USMAAG TO ETHIOPIA AS CAN BE SEEN FROM THECA RESPECTIVE LETTERS.

WE WOULD LIKE TO ASSURE YOU THAT THE WEAPONS HAVE NOT BEEN TRANSFERRED TO ANY ELEMENTS OTHER THAN THE EMERGENCY FORCES DIRECTLY COMMITTED TO THE COUNTERINSURGENCY OPERATIONS. WE HOPE THAT THIS LETTER WILL RESOLVE YOUR INQUIRY. UNQTE

(C) LETTER, CHMAAG TO H.E. LT.GEN. KEBEDE, MOD, DATED 27 FEB 74. QTE. REFERENCE YOUR LETTER, REFERENCE NO. M26/77/15-10/1. I NOTE THAT IN YOUR LETTER YOU:

(A) REFER TO TWO LETTERS CONCERNING AUTHORIZATION OF SECRET

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WEAPONS FOR THE TERRITORIAL ARMY.

(B) STATE THAT THE WEAPONS IN QUESTION HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED TO "EMERGENCY FORCES DIRECTLY COMMITTED TO THE COUNTER-INSURGENCY OPERATIONS", WITHOUT SAYING WHAT SPECIFIC FORCES OR TYPE OF FORCES RECEIVED THE WEAPONS. I MUST POINT OUT THAT:

(A) THE PROVISION OF MAP SUPPORT TO ANY UNIT WHICH HAS LAW ENFORCEMENT AMONG ITS ROUTINE FUNCTIONS IS CONTRARY TO

AMERICAN LEGISLATION. LAW ENFORCEMENT IS DEFINED TO INCLUDE "APPREHENSION AND CONTROL OF POLITICAL OFFENDERS AND OPPONENTS OF GOVERNMENTS IN POWER (OTHER THAN PRISONERS OF WAR) AS WELL AS PERSONS SUSPECTED OF COMMISSION OF SO CALLED COMMON CRIMES."

B) THE PREVIOUS WEAPONS AUTHORITY YOU REFER TO WAS SPECIFICALLY FOR THE TERRITORIAL ARMY, NOT JUST FOR ANY TYPE FORCE WHICH MIGHT BE INVOLVED IN COUNTERINSURGENCY OPERATIONS, AS YOU SEEM TO INFER.

(C) THE EVIDENCE AVAILABLE TO ME IS THAT THE WEAPONS IN QUESTION WERE TRANSFERRED TO THE POLICE.

THEREFORE, I RESPECTFULLY REQUEST AGAIN THAT YOU EITHER:

(A) SUBMIT CLEAR EVIDENCE THAT THESE WEAPONS WERE NOT OF MAP ORIGIN, OR

(B) RETURN THESE WEAPONS TO IEGF CONTROL IN A MANNER COORDINATED WITH COLONEL EUGENE N. FISK, CHIEF, ARMY SECTION, USMAAG ETHIOPIA, WHICH WILL PROVIDE ASSURANCE TO ME THAT

THE RETURN HAS BEEN COMPLETELY EFFECTED. I AM THIS DATE REQUESTING THE ASSISTANCE OF THE AMERICAN CHARGE' D'AFFAIRS IN THIS MATTER AND NOTIFYING THE PROPER AUTHORITIES IN WASHINGTON OF THE SITUATION. UNQTE.

2. ORAL DISCUSSIONS OF THIS SUBJECT WITH IEMF AUTHORITIES HAVE HAD THE SAME THRUSTS AS THIS OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

3. MAAG AND/OR EMBASSY WILL PURSUE THIS ISSUE FURTHER AS SOON AS A NEW GOVERNMENT IS FIRMLY ESTABLISHED HERE. WYMAN

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